



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

Meeting Date: January 13, 2014
Meeting Location: Joy Rose Center
1000 W. Hively Ave.
Elkhart, IN

Council Members Present: Fay Russell, Regional Manager DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko DCS; Bill Horton, St. Joseph County DCS, Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County.

Council Members Absent: Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Janet Bohner, Elkhart Probation.

Others In Attendance: Joni Tusing, DCS; Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN; Jacob Fawley, Lifeline Youth and Family Services; Travis Tusk, Lifeline; Hong-phucNguyen, DCS; Libby Martin, LSSI; Leah Plank, CAPS; Mike Marchi; Memorial Epworth Center; Candy Yoder, CAPS; Amy Rosen, Oaklawn; Deon Smith, DCS; Carlye Gibson, QSR-DCS, Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Emily Robinson, Oaklawn, Josh Allen, CAPS.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00a.m. by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 12-16-2013 reviewed. Bill Horton motioned approval of the Minutes. Tony Sommer seconded. Vote taken. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith for Community Partners reported on November actual \$135,198. 44% of budget YTD should be 41%, should balance out with December spending not as robust. In December only 41 clients enrolled, targeting 92 clients for January, 208 families in service at month end. CTD attainment struggled with the Holidays and snow. A lot to hand off last week, office in South Bend was closed down until Wednesday. Working on the initial contacts within 5 days, staff doing better. Goal Achievement is 15% over standard. Elkhart County is down in referral sources, working with CAPS. Continuing to do outreach, targeting Elkhart. Tony Sommer asked why the mental health category is at zero. Rachel does not know, possibly picking up through the mental health initiative, or maybe falling into self category. Rachel will work on that. Rachel clarified that Juvenile Probation cases cannot receive services. If the probation case is closed or if there is another child in the home that is not a child on probation then they can provide services. Probation is frustrated with this program. Probation can receive services through the Preservation Program. Tony Sommer reported that it is not unusual to have another child in the home in need of services that would qualify; maybe we can help them identify that other child. Local Prevention Dollars should be at 41% currently at 46%. Fay Russell questioned if historically there is more of a need at certain times, looking back at the historical flow to

determine the need. Rachel agreed that in May/June there is a lot of need and in July it slows, Dec/Jan slow but then it picks back up.

4. Service Update. Hong-phuc Nguyen reported for Jeff Bedree. FCT in Region 3 only has 4 referrals. Institute for Family Service Center is able to carry 10 cases. Question: Can it be used for IA's? Answer: No, it is for highly intensive cases, to prevent removal and transition from residential. Motivational and Trauma Focus are still in negotiations, perhaps May or June for roll out. Jeff has visited all the counties.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager. Through December \$3,082,414 million, 2nd quarter \$9,047,141 million, YTD \$18,131,523 million with Child Welfare at \$9, 613, 111 million and Probation \$8,518,411 million. Expenses have increased from last year, comparison report reviewed. Increases almost doubled in residential placement for probation. The child welfare rate for foster parents increased. Even with the increases in expenses we remain within the budget. We can see that we are doing more in preservation services. Fay Russell stated that you can predict the foster parent increase, but Joni added you cannot predict need.

6. County Updates.

Elkhart – Tony Sommer, Director, reported they have interviewed for the shared Attorney position and Ashley will be making an offer today. Filling another clerical position, a clerical staff member was promoted to licensing. They have one vacant supervisory position available.

Kosciusko – Erin Shidler, Director, also reported on the shared Attorney position with Elkhart Co.

Marshall – Michael Carroll, Director, reported one FCM position vacant, one FCM on maternity leave, so they will be down two workers.

St. Joseph – Linda Cioch, Director, reported that Justin Staublin, DCS Attorney, left for another position. The Kos/Elkhart attorney is transferring to St. Joseph County to fill the vacancy. Supervisory staff have met with their teams and set team goals for this year.

Regional – Fay Russell reported on the Safely Home statistics, CHINS by county in residential placements continues under the statewide average at 5.5% with shorter stays and returning to the community sooner. Relative placements still struggle to find suitable relatives, statewide 43% Region 3 at 40% taxing the number of foster homes available. Informal Adjustments, In Home CHINS and Relative care statewide 64.3%, Region 3 is at 62.8%.

7. Other Business. Child Protection Plan for Region 3 and action plan for the next biennium -

Documents used to help determine information were from Healthy Families, Quality Service Review information, most prominent stress factor within the Region, budget information provided by Joni, needs assessment information which went out to many community partners, and the DCS summary of licensed homes. The work group consisted of the Local Office Directors; Quality Service Representative Carlye Gibson, Region 3 Supervisors, two members of the Probation Department, one CASA, the Regional Financial Manager, and Jeff Bedree, Regional Coordinator. Jeff was present to guide the process. The action plan was sent to the work group members, and approved by them. Action steps: 1. Select a provider for mediation services. 2. Contract one or more addition father engagement providers to serve Region 3. We are under powered; we had a couple of providers that were struggling with assistance. We do not always have an equal voice either because we cannot locate or engage. 3. Select a provider for Functional Family Therapy services in Region 3.

Erin Shidler motioned to approve action plan. Michael Carroll second. Vote taken. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

Child Protection Plan is reviewed. Central Office Team created, statistics added for Region 3 staffing and for the Hotline, emergency placement protocol is a statewide protocol, confidentially is State law, GAL/CASA appointments, administrative review according to policy and law, community Child Protection Team membership by law, confidential agreement, how many meetings and number in attendance, how much we spent for child protection services. Plan is posted on the web.

Linda Cioch, Director, St. Joseph County stated a correction needed in CPT meetings to clarify St. Joseph County meets bi-weekly. Linda Cioch's member information to be added to the CPT membership listing in St. Joseph County.

Teresa Zornig motioned to approve the plan with the mentioned clarifications. Tony Sommer seconded. Vote taken. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

Carlye Gibson, DCS Central Office, announced the Round 4 Quality Service Review is scheduled for May 13 & 14.

Erin Shidler motioned to adjournment at 10:56 a.m.

Next RSC Meeting - Monday, February 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Juvenile Justice Center, 1000 S Michigan St, South Bend, IN